

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY USSR (Yakutsk ASSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT Installations in the Aldan Area

DATE DISTR.

APR 8 1955 25X1

NO. OF PAGES

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REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

USAF review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY USSR (Yakutsk ASSR)

DATE DISTR. 14 Mar. 1955

SUBJECT Installations in the Aldan Area

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. [redacted] a survey 25X1  
 group under the State Planning Institute for Gold (GIPROZOLOTO) was directly responsible to Moscow. This group was charged with laying out a route for a new high voltage line from the town of Yakokut (N 58-52, E 125-49) to the Verkhniy Kuranakh gold fields, a distance of about 30 km.<sup>1</sup> The headquarters to which the survey group reported was in Svobodnyy (N 51-24, E 128-08), near Khabarovsk (N 48-30, E 135-06). 25X1

2. [redacted] 25X1

3. On page 5 and page 6 are a [redacted] sketch, and an overlay of a World Aeronautical Chart No. 129, on which are indicated observations in the area [redacted] 25X1

4. Following are legends referring to the overlay on page 5 and the sketch on page 6. Numbers in parentheses in the legends refer to numbers on the overlay and sketch.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Legend to Overlay on Page 4 .

- (1). Yakokit, a small kolkhoz settlement.<sup>1</sup> [ ] this was the right spelling as contrary to that on the WAC chart which shows "Yakokut". 25X1
- (2). Yakokut River, a tributary of the Aldan River. The Yakokut River had a swift northern flow and was 30 to 40 m. wide. There was no traffic on the river. In the spring, the immediate area of the river was inundated during the summer, the water level dropped considerably, and the river could be forded at almost any point.
- (3). Yakokut.<sup>1</sup> For a detailed description, see [ ] sketch on page 6 . 25X1
- (4). Projected route the Yakokut-Lebedin section of the high-tension power line. [ ] the actual construction was to begin in winter 1953. [ ] the projected power line [ ] would replace an old line built in 1952. The old line ran almost parallel to the projected new line. The old line consisted of 10 to 12 m.-high wooden towers which were spaced 100 m. apart.<sup>2</sup> The towers carried three wires, and porcelain insulators. The immediate area was cleared of trees and underbrush, 10 to 15 m. on each side. The poles used for tower construction were short, which necessitated the use of two poles wired together for the purpose of acquiring the proper height. The terrain was hilly and was covered with trees and dense underbrush. In summer, the entire area was marshy and no construction could be accomplished. [ ] gold miners from surrounding areas would construct the power line. 25X1
- (5). Lebedin, a small settlement. The population of this settlement could not be estimated but consisted mostly of gold miners. The houses were of wood and there were no prominent installations.
- (6). Projected route of the Lebedin-Aldan section of the high-tension power line. No old power lines connected the towns of Lebedin and Aldan. The terrain was hilly and was covered with dense forest and underbrush.
- (7). Aldan (N 58-35, E 12-52). A town with 8000 to 9000 inhabitants, most of whom were employed in the gold mining industry. All houses were built of wood; street surfaces were dirt. There was no underground sewage system. A small militia force kept order in the town. There was a constant shortage of electricity in Aldan. Lights in the homes went on at night but were very weak.
- (8). An abandoned thermal power plant, called "Seligdar". [ ] the plant had been dismantled. All electric power for Aldan was supplied by the Yakokut thermal power plant. 25X1 25X1
- (9). Projected route of the Yakokut-Kuranakh high-tension power line. An old power line was observed near this new projected power line. Construction of the Yakokut-Kuranakh line was scheduled to begin during winter 1953. The terrain was hilly, covered with trees and dense underbrush. [ ] gold miners would be used for the construction of all new power lines and that construction would take about six months. 25X1
- (10). Kuranakh, a small settlement of gold miners. [ ] All houses were of wood, the streets were not paved, and there was no underground sewage system. There was a constant shortage of electricity. Only three of four gold-washing units were in operation. There was a law against using electrical hot plates and persons violating this law were fined an unknown amount. 25X1 25X1

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Legend to Sketch of Yakokut on Page 6.

- (1). Forced labor camp, an area enclosing 300 m. x 200 m; The camp was enclosed by a two-meter-high wooden fence which was topped with barbed wire. It was electrically illuminated at night by lights placed along the top of the fence. There were eight, six-meter-high wooden watch towers, one tower in each corner and one tower on each side, all of them manned by submachine gun-armed MVD soldiers. No watch dogs were used. There was a restricted zone (zapretnaya zona) outside the enclosure along the fence. The zone was two to three meters wide and had coils of barbed wire placed along the fence marking the zone. [redacted] a similar zone existed on the inside of the camp. There was one large building within the enclosure which housed 600 to 700 penal workers. [redacted]  
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- (2). A dormitory for bachelor workers. The dormitory consisted of one wooden building, 140 m. x 40 m.; it was a single story building with a wooden gabled roof. There were entrances on the north and south sides.
- (3). Garage. The garage consisted of two identical buildings, 80 m. x 20 m. each, built of wood. The buildings were one-story high and had a wooden gabled roof. [redacted] this garage could accommodate about 100 trucks. [redacted] all the trucks were used for hauling wood to the thermal power plant and only those in need of repair were brought to the garage; all vehicles were refueled somewhere near the garage. [redacted] each truck was assigned two drivers who hauled wood in two 12-hour shifts. The types of trucks observed were: ZIS-150, ZIS-50, and ZIS-5.  
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- (4). Town hall. This 30 m. x 10 m. building was two-stories high. It was built of wood and had a gabled roof. The building contained offices for the executive staff of the town. Yakokut, a town of approximately 1,000 free inhabitants, was run by an MVD senior lieutenant. The militia force in the town consisted of five persons.
- (5). Dirt street, 30 m. wide, which was not illuminated at night.
- (6). One large building used as a horse stable; its dimensions could not be estimated. About 200 horses were kept here. They were used for forest work.
- (7). Bridge which spanned the Yakokut River. The bridge was built of wood, was 50 to 60 m. long, and had a wooden plank driveway six meters wide. It was flanked by 1.5-meter-wide sidewalks with wooden railings. The bridge was supported by five wooden piers filled with crushed stone.
- (8). A dirt street, 10 m. wide. Wooden houses were situated along this street.
- (9). Yakokut River. For details see Point (2) of legend to overlay.
- (10). Projected power line. For details see Point (4) of legend to overlay.
- (11). Projected power line. For details see Point (9) of legend to overlay.
- (12). Thermal power plant. This area, approximately 250 m. x 300 m. was enclosed by a wooden fence two-meters high and was topped with barbed wire. A restricted zone, two to three meters wide, marked with coils of barbed wire, extended along the fence on the outside. One armed guard checked passes at the gate on the north side. [redacted]  
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temporary pass, which was good for one day, was issued by the chief engineer of the plant. One flat-roofed building, 100 m. x 75 m. x 35 m., was located inside the enclosure. [redacted] one metal smoke stack, 30 m. high, which always emitted black smoke. Three turbines were in constant operation. [redacted] a fourth turbine was being installed. Work was done in three eight-hour shifts. The total of the free labor force numbered approximately 400 persons. No forced laborers worked inside the thermal power plant enclosure. [redacted] approximately 600 cu. m. of wood were consumed each 24 hours; the wood was cut in the forest north of the plant. [redacted] in the future, coal would be used for fuel. Coal was to be supplied from a coal mine located 250 km. south of Yakokut. [redacted] the mine was in the stage of development.

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(13). Wood storage area. This area was 300 m. x 200 m. and was enclosed by a wooden fence two-meters high. Large quantities of wood were stored in this area and only forced laborers worked here. During winter, enough wood was stored here to last through spring. MVD guards were posted every 50 yards to prevent prisoners from escaping.

(14). Small gauge rail line. This rail line was used only for transporting wood from the forest, which was located 15 km. north of the power plant, to the wood storage area (see Point 13). One small electrically-operated locomotive pulled 10 to 12 empty platform cars, each with a capacity of 40 cu. m. of wood, to the forest. The platform cars were loaded with wood and pulled back to the wood storage area. Electricity was supplied to the locomotive by overhead cable. Mainly forced laborers were used for work in the forest.

1. [redacted] Comment: In this report there are two settlements called Yakokut, one a small kolkhoz settlement listed under Point (1) of the legend, the other a settlement listed under Point (3). If not described as a kolkhoz settlement, Yakokut (N 58-52, E 125-49) listed under Point (3) in the legend is intended.

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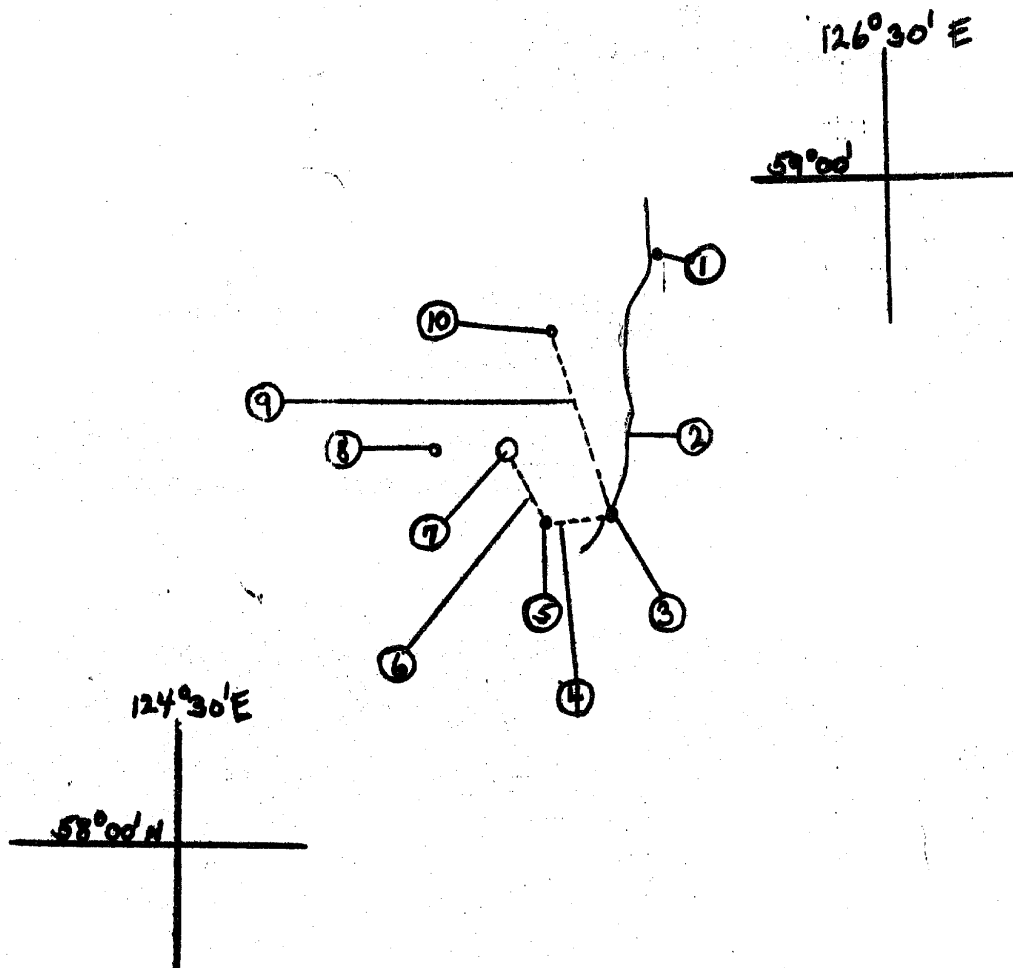
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Installations in the Aldan Area

Overlay of [ ] Timpton River,  
Scale 1:1,000,000, pinpointing the  
Yakokut thermal power plant and  
the projected power lines.

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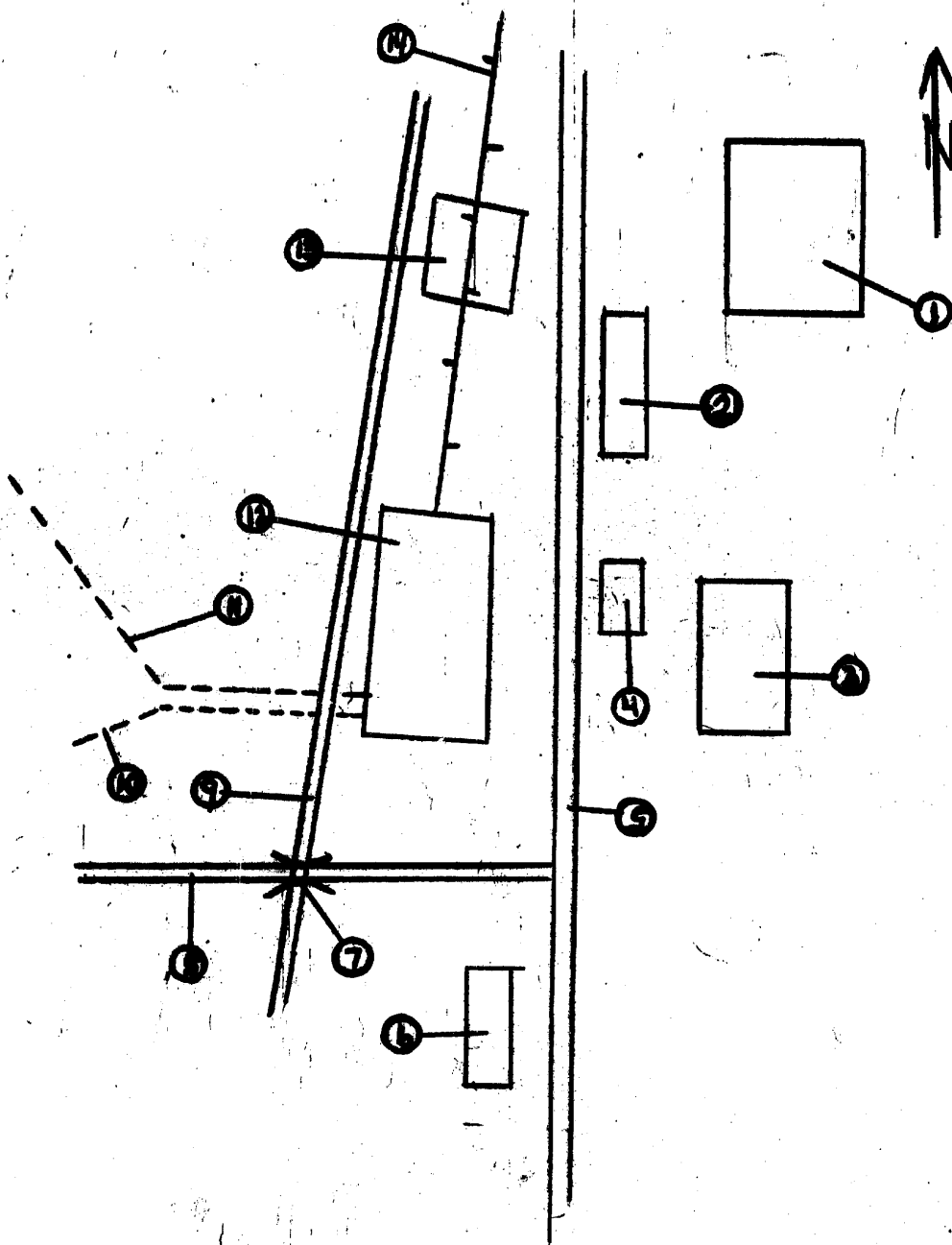
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Sketch of the Yakokut settlement where  
the thermal power plant was located.

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